

Pillar and Ground of the Truth

1 Tim 3:14-16

1 Timothy 3: 14

Paul commissioned Timothy to stay in Ephesus.

At time of this writing Paul hoping to come to Ephesus to be with Timothy shortly.

1 Timothy 3:15

If I delay in coming

...how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, How to conduct yourself...how to act.

In the house of God. The church.

God is concerned about our behavior in church

which is the church of the living God, Definition of the house of God

Not a place which worships dead idols.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 1 Corinthians 3:16 2 Corinthians 6:16

Living: Alive! Not dead religion

When come to church--sense presence and power of God who is alive?

What is function of church? Why are we here? Why belong to church?

100 times in NT refer to local church

Church very important to Jesus Christ--purchased it with own Blood. Acts 20:28

...the pillar and ground of the truth. Illustration from architecture.

Pillar: stud, post, pillar under a house... huge roof.

The church is institution which holds up and supports truth of Word of God in its own generation.

Truth: Written Word

Truth: Living Word

Hend. *As the pillar supports the roof, even better (note the climax!) as the foundation supports the entire superstructure, so the church supports the glorious truth of the gospel.*

Ground: basis, support, that which gives stability and firmness

Firm foundation.

Local church – Displayer of truth.

Steadfastness.

How display truth? Hend

By

Hearing and Heeding it (Matt 13:9)

Handling it rightly (2 Tim 2:15).

Hiding it in the heart (Ps 119:11)

Holding it forth as the Word of Life (Philippians 2:16)

Philippians 2:16 2 Timothy 2:15

By

Digesting it (Rev 10:9). *That takes study and meditation*

Defending it (Phil 1:16)

Disseminating it (Matt 28:18-10)

Demonstrating its power in consecrated living (Col 3:12-17)

Just a thought: there is no other institution that God calls the pillar and ground of the truth.

Function: A displayer of truth...

Importance: Because of this, we had better stay connected to the local church

Hebrews 10:24

Consider: consider attentively, observe fully.....study one another. Be concerned about one another.

Provoke: to incite. Move to action, spur on, light a fire under.

Love: agape—total giving, sacrificial love

Good works: activities that count for eternity

How do it?

Hebrews 10:25

Not Forsaking: abandoning, leaving behind, neglecting

Assembling: gathering together in one place. The meeting times of the church

As the manner of some is: accustomed to doing. Some in habit of neglecting, abandoning the times when the body of Christ meet together.

Make Local church vital part of life.

Stay connected to local church.

Believers Study Bible: Early Christians had a fellowship which drew them together for worship and preparation. The author of Hebrews asserts that this practice of assembling together ought to increase as the believing community sees the day of Christ approaching. This passage provides one of the strongest affirmations in the Bible of the crucial importance of the local church and the necessity thrust upon every Christian to be faithful to a local community of the saints.

1 Timothy 3:16

Without controversy: confessedly great. A matter to be openly confessed. .

Mystery of godliness: the revelation of the truth which godliness and piety embraces. Mystery of the gospel scheme.

Mystery: Hidden. Hard to figure out. Romans 11:33 Ephesians 3:18-19

Hend: The more we know him, the better will we be able to discern the mysterious, unfathomable character of his love and of all his attributes.

Some believe—

Refer to God's plan of redemption hidden through centuries and now revealed to mankind.

Refer to Christ.

Words to song.

God was manifest in the flesh, God appeared in body.

Manifest: Made visible, seen, put on display.

In the flesh: living body. Speaking of Jesus Christ.

John 1:14 John 1:18

He hath declared Him: From which get word *exegesis*.

To make known by expounding.

To fully declare meaning of something.

Jesus able to give us full revelation of God the Father.

Jesus the exegesis of God, the Father.

justified in the Spirit, Vindicated in and by and through Holy Spirit

seen of angels, observed, adored and worshipped by angels.

preached unto Gentiles,

Clarke This was one grand part of the mystery which had been hidden in God, that the Gentiles should be made fellow heirs with the Jews, and be admitted into the kingdom of God. ...

Preached: heralded, proclaimed, broadcast unto Gentiles.

We are to preach Jesus unto the Gentiles.

believed on in the world,

Mystery.... That people turn from sin and unbelief and put faith and trust in Lord Jesus Christ.

We give out message and let Holy Spirit do rest.

Ephesians 2:1 Ephesians 2:5 1 Corinthians 2:9-14

One of manifestations of new birth-- desire for Word of God 1 Peter 2:2

received up into glory. Jesus ascending up into heaven.

So What?

God is concerned about our behavior in church

15...church of the living God

When come to church--sense presence and power of God who is alive?

...the pillar and ground of the truth.

Function: Local church – Displayer of truth.

Importance: Stay connected to the local church

Heb 10:24-25 Don't forsake times when the body assembles

Mystery of Godliness. Something that is hidden.... Only revealed through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is God...God manifest in the flesh.

Justified in the Spirit.... Vindicated ...proven to be credible

Seen of angels....a testimony to angels.

Proclaimed to Gentiles (not only Jews....) A non-religious people....

Believed on in the world...that people put faith in Jesus Christ

Received up into glory (heaven)..... gone up to heaven in human form and will come again.